

Action Matrix Summary

The NRC provided oversight of 103 operating power reactors using the Reactor Oversight Process (ROP). On average, approximately 75% of the plants were listed in the Licensee Response column of the ROP Action Matrix, which corresponds to the baseline level of NRC oversight. The chart below shows trends in the numbers of plants that are listed in the Regulatory Response, Degraded Cornerstone, Multiple/Repetitive Degraded Cornerstone, and Unacceptable Performance columns of the Action Matrix, which correspond to increasing levels of regulatory engagement with the licensee.

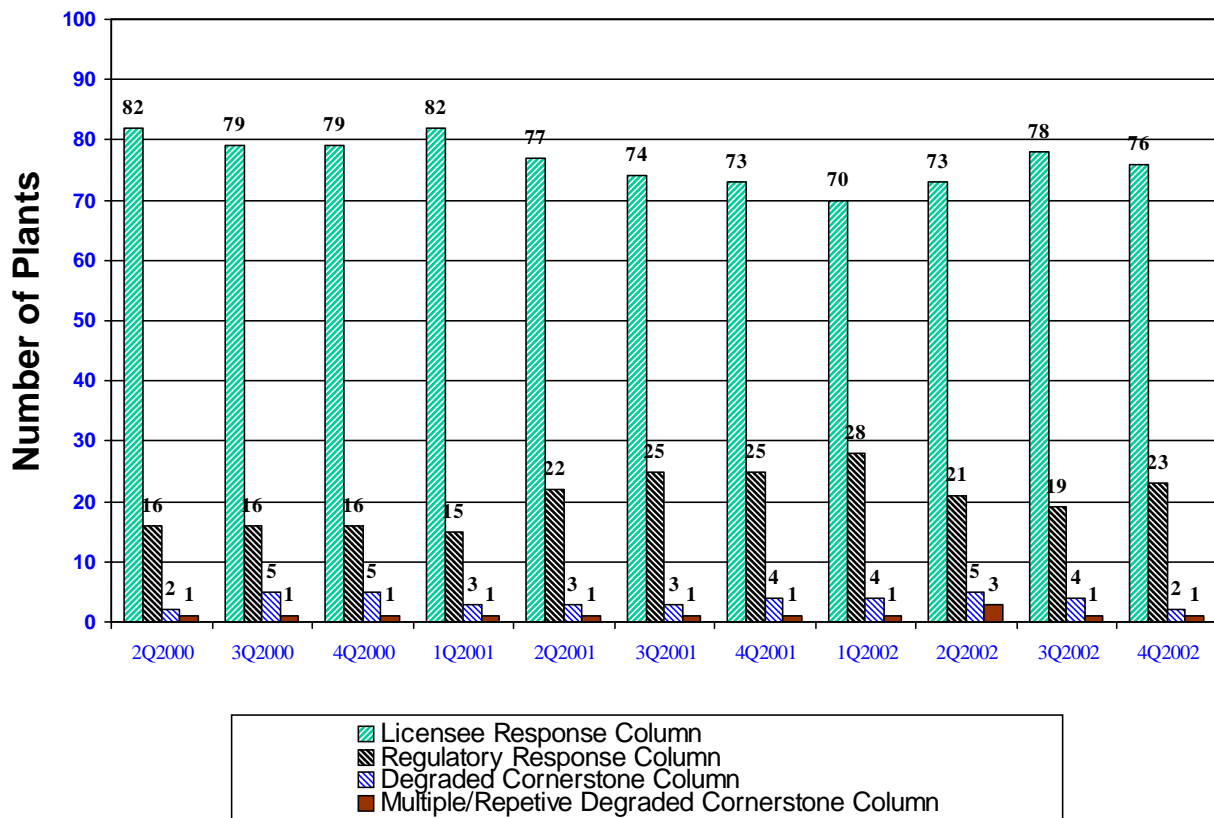


Figure A4-1

Notes for Figure A4-1:

1. This chart includes DC Cook units 1 and 2, beginning in 2Q/2001.
2. Davis-Besse is not included beginning in 2Q/2002 since under IMC 0350.
3. Data current as of January 2003.

The chart appears to show a slight migration of plants from the Licensee Response Column to the other columns in the Action Matrix. This can be attributed to several factors associated with the initial start up of the ROP. First, the staff has continued to work with industry to improve the ROP since initial implementation. These improvements include enhancements to its risk-informed inspection procedures, improved SDP Phase 2 notebooks, and improvements to the guidance for performance indicators. A second factor is that the staff is much more familiar with applying these risk-informed ROP tools and with the ROP processes. These factors have likely enhanced the ability of both the NRC and licensees to identify the most risk-significant aspects of licensee performance.

In addition, inspection findings that are determined to have greater than very low safety significance (green) are counted for 4 quarters when determining the appropriate column of the Action Matrix for licensees. Thus, for at least the first 4 quarters from the date of initial implementation of the ROP on April 2, 2000, the number of plants moving out of the Licensee Response Column has increased as inspection findings are accrued by plants under the ROP.